



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB 2482

empowerment scholarships; expansion; phase-in.
Prime Sponsor: Representative Olson, et al., LD 25

DP Committee on Ways and Means

X Caucus and COW

House Engrossed

OVERVIEW

HB 2482 expands the definition of *qualified student* under the Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) program.

PROVISIONS

1. Expands the definition of an ESA *qualified student* to include:
 - a. Beginning in School Year (SY) 2017, any child in grades K-5 attending a public school who meets certain requirements.
 - b. Beginning in SY 2018, any child in grades K-8 attending a public school who meets certain requirements.
 - c. Beginning in SY 2019, any child in grades K-12 attending a public school who meets certain requirements.
2. Makes conforming changes.

CURRENT LAW

Laws 2011, Chapter 75, established the ESA program. Arizona Revised Statutes § 15-2401 defines an ESA qualified student as an Arizona resident who is any of the following:

- Identified as having a disability,
- Attends or is eligible to attend kindergarten at a D or F school or school district,
- A previous scholarship recipient of the ESA program or the Arizona Scholarships for Pupils with Disabilities Program,
- A child whose parent or guardian is a member of the armed forces and on active duty or was killed in the line of duty (these students are exempt from any further requirements for qualification),
- A child who is a ward of the juvenile court, or
- A child who is a sibling of a current or previous ESA recipient.

The qualifying student must also meet at least one of the following requirements:

- Attended a governmental primary or secondary school as a full-time student for at least 100 days of the prior fiscal year and who transferred under a contract to participate in an ESA,
- Previously participated in the ESA program,
- Received a scholarship from a School Tuition Organization and continues to attend a qualified school,
- Was eligible for an Arizona Scholarship for Pupils with Disabilities, or
- Has not previously attended a governmental primary or secondary school but is currently eligible to enroll in a kindergarten or preschool children with disabilities program.

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Laws 2013, Chapter 250, enacted session law that caps new ESAs through 2019 at 0.5% of the total number of students enrolled in school districts and charters schools during the previous school year